

**Illinois Early Learning Council
Program Standards and Quality (PSQ)
March 18, 2013
Teleconference Meeting Notes**

Attendees:

Amy Tarr	Deb Widenhofer	Laurie Rhodes
Anne Wharff	Janet Maruna	Linda Saterfield
Carol Morris	Jeanna Capito	Lynette Chandler
Cass Wolfe	Joni Scritchlow	Madelyn James
Catherine Main	Judith Walker-Kendrick	Penny Smith
Cynthia Zumwalt	Lauri Morrison-Frichtl	Sessy Nyman

Welcome – Jan Maruna and Jeanna Capito

- Members introduced themselves and the organization/agency they represent.

Review and Approval of Minutes

- January 3, 2013
 - Cass Wolfe moved to accept.
 - Judith Walker-Kendrick seconded the motion.
 - Minutes approved.
- January 14, 2013
 - Deb Widenhofer moved to accept.
 - Lynette Chandler seconded the motion.
 - Minutes approved.

Program Standards and Quality Committee Structure

- PSQ Committee will continue to build on the work of advising bodies and aligning work underway at state agencies to avoid duplication of efforts. A conscious effort is being made to collaborate.
- The committee structure has evolved to include a larger cross sector representation of advising bodies, agency/entity representation, and self-nominated colleagues.

QRIS Ad Hoc

- QRIS Levels 1-4 were approved at the February 25, 2013 Illinois Early Learning Council.
 - Work is in progress to develop marketing tools. QRIS logos/name brand should be unveiled within the next thirty to sixty days.
- QRIS Level 5 “Award of Excellence” are in final stages of development.
- Next steps involve the OECD hiring of the QRIS Policy Director.

PSQ Background and Priorities

- Members were asked to refer to page four of the *Illinois Early Learning Council (IELC) Program Standards and Quality Committee Background Document*.
 - Full participation in scheduled meetings will assure open communication.
 - IELC webinars dates have been added as a tool for communicating updates.

PSQ Work Plan

- Timeframe/Status column will be split to allow for continued updates to work status.

- Advising bodies asked to review their strategic plans for alignment and inclusion within the PSQ work plan, provide updates and identify priorities.
 - Based on information provided from advising bodies, the PSQ Work Plan will be revised and shared at the September 2013 PSQ meeting (date TBD).
- Advising bodies are charged with reviewing the PSQ Work Plan with their councils/committees regularly. It is the responsibility of the leadership of the cross-sector advising bodies to ensure this communication occurs.
- Jeanna Capito may schedule a Birth to Three focused Ad Hoc group to review the PSQ Work Plan and ensure there are no gaps for this audience.
 - Could meet late April/May.
 - Members should contact Jeanna Capito if they would like to be a part of this Ad Hoc group.

Advisory Body Updates

- **Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (IDCFS) Licensing Advisory Committee – Carol Morris**
 - IDCFS has received the final recommendations from the Healthcare Subcommittee regarding childhood obesity prevention (nutrition, and the amount of screen time and movement).
 - There will be two more rounds of amendments to Section 407 Day Care Center Licensing Standards. Phase 2, which encompasses the HealthCare Subcommittee's recommendations, will be out for comment within the next few months. The large, over-reaching work of Phase 3 will include the Infant/Toddler Subcommittee's recommendations and a line-by-line Review of the Rule and development of accompanying Procedures.
 - Infant Toddler recommendations will be reviewed in the next phase of work on Rule 407.
 - Procedures 406 has finished internal comments, the review will be done by the end of March.
 - Review of Procedures 408, Group Day Care Homes, will not take long since much of the language will mirror Procedure 406.
 - Tests of the data exchange that is part of the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant: Phase II have gone smoothly.
 - In the process of revamping computer system within Licensing.
 - New system will provide more and better data.
 - Internal reorganization created eleven new positions being filled in early 2013.
 - Fourteen more positions are to be posted in March 2013.
- **Professional Development Advisory Council (PDAC) – Deb Widenhofer**
 - Gateways Higher Education Forum will be April 4 and 5, 2013 @ Marriott Conference Center, Normal, IL. Hosted in partnership with Illinois State Board of Education Illinois Resource Center, Early Childhood Division, and OECD. Topics include:
 - Best practices in Cultural and Linguistic integration into coursework.
 - Professional Educator Licensure updates.
 - Common Core -relevance to early childhood.
 - Illinois Professional Teaching Standards (IPTS.)
 - Response to Intervention.
 - To date, two-thirds of all higher education institutions with ECE/Child Development programs have registered.
 - PDAC is in the process of developing a new strategic plan scheduled for implementation from July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2015.

- New committees:
 - Workforce Development and Pathways
 - Information Analysis and Trends
 - Special Focus: Registry
 - Standing Committees:
 - Qualifications and Credentials
 - Financial Supports
 - PDAC Governance
- Infant Toddler Credential Level 6 Pilot: anticipate completion summer of 2013 with statewide rollout shortly after.
- PDAC Annual Meeting: November 8, 2013.
- **Illinois Interagency Council on Early Intervention - Amy Tarr**
 - Council is actively working to ensure quality practices and programming across systems serving birth to three (Goal 5 of the PSQ Work Plan).
 - Zero to Five sub-committee will meet as long as there is work to complete.
 - Focus is currently on child screenings and transitions.
- **Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) Child Care Advisory Council – Judith Walker-Kendrick**
 - Focusing on increased collaboration and communication among the three IDHS committees:
 - Collaboration and Integration
 - Quality Assurance and Capacity
 - Program Administration.
 - Work concentrating on:
 - Blending sustainable funding in the areas of special needs.
 - Economic impacts on families.
 - Early Math – committee formed to determine how to best support practitioners statewide. Identifying supports needed for professional development as well as teacher preparation.
- **Illinois Head Start Association – Lauri Morrison-Frichtl**
 - Head Start received a five percent cut in federal funding due to sequestration.
 - No guidance from Office of Head Start on how to administer these cuts. Programs will need to cut the number of children served, reduce staff, furlough days, etc.
 - Currently working with University of Illinois to build a data infrastructure to connect with other state systems.
 - Need to identify more coursework/professional development to prepare the workforce on how to use data to inform curriculum.
- **Illinois State Board of Education – Cynthia Zumwalt**
 - Professional Educator Teacher Licensure Early Childhood Advisory Group meets March 25, 2013 to review preparation programs for the birth to second grade licensure.
 - Early Learning Development Standards are currently being field tested and will be finalized at the end of May 2013, with a Train the Trainer set for the end of July 2013.
 - Common Core has been part of the discussions as to what is appropriate and how it links to younger ages.

- Preschool and Pre-K program staff need to know what skills are expected within the Kindergarten Common Core.
- **Chicago Public Schools**
 - No representation to share updates
- **Advocacy: Illinois Action for Children – Sessy Nyman**
 - Child Care Assistance Program will receive \$10 million (reinstated funds).
 - Overall \$400 million cut in education, but the ECE Block Grants have been flat funded.
 - Home Visiting and Early Intervention Programs did receive a slight increase in funding.
 - Please visit the Illinois Action for Children (www.actforchildren.org) website for information on their state budget and the April 9 and 10, 2013 Spring into Action Conference.

Misc.

- Per member request, a roster of committee members will be attached to the minutes.
- Information regarding upcoming professional development opportunities will be shared with PSQ members via e-mail.

Adjourn

Future Meeting Dates:

- **Program Standards and Quality (PSQ) Committee WEBINAR**
 - **Monday, May 13, 2013 - 11:30 AM–1 PM**
- **Early Learning Council Executive Committee Meeting(s):**
 - **April 8, 2013**
 - **June 3, 2013**
- **Early Learning Council: Monday, June 24, 2013 - 11 AM–2 PM**

Program Standards and Quality Committee Member Representatives:

Amber Kirchoff	Office of Early Childhood Development
Amy Tarr	Illinois Interagency Council on Early Intervention; Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) Office of Early Intervention
Anne Wharff	IDHS Bureau of Child Care and Development
Arleen Prairie	Harold Washington College
Beatrice Nichols	City of Chicago Department of Family Support Services, Children Services Division
Carol Morris	Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (IDCFS) Licensing Advisory Committee; IDCFS
Cass Wolfe	Professional Development Advisory Council (PDAC); Infant Welfare Society of Evanston
Catherine Main	University of Illinois, Chicago
Chris Rosean	Chicago Public Schools
Cynthia Zumwalt	Illinois State Board of Education, Early Childhood Division
Deb Widenhofer	Professional Development Advisory Council, BabyTALK
Deborah McCarrel	Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, Licensing
Gail Conway	Chicago Metro Association of the Education of Young Children
Harriette Herrera	DePaul University
Isolda Davila	City of Chicago Department of Family Support Services
Janet Maruna	Program Standards and Quality Co-Chair, Illinois Network Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies
Jeanna Capito	Program Standards and Quality Co-Chair (PSQ) Co-Chair, Positive Parenting
Johnna Darragh-Ernst	Heartland Community College
Joni Scritchlow	PSQ Staffing, Illinois Network Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies
Joyce Weiner	Ounce of Prevention
Judith Walker Kendrick	IDHS Child Care Advisory Council, Chicago Coalition of Site Administration Child Care Programs
Kim Collins	Office of Early Childhood Development
Lauri Morrison-Frichtl	Illinois Head Start Association
Laurie Rhodes	Illinois Education of Young Children President
Laurie Walker	SAL Family and Community Services
Linda Saterfield	PSQ State Liaison, Illinois Department of Human Services
Lynette Chandler	Northern Illinois University
Madelyn James	Voices for Illinois Children
Penny Smith	Illinois State Board of Education
Rhonda Clark	Illinois State Board of Education, Early Childhood Division
Samantha Aigner-Treworgy	Chicago Public Schools
Sessy Nyman or Christine Robinson	Illinois Action for Children